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Briefs**WASHINGTON, D.C.****Passive smoke also can cause cancer, EPA says**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tomorrow will formally confirm that second-hand tobacco smoke causes cancer in nonsmokers and respiratory problems in children, EPA officials said yesterday.

EPA officials, who asked not to be named, said EPA Administrator William Reilly had signed off on a draft report released in June that concluded that passive smoke caused lung cancer and worsened asthma and other respiratory problems in children. The report estimated 3,000 nonsmokers would develop lung cancer each year as a result of inhaling tobacco smoke in the environment.

Elsewhere, a new study showed one in four young consumers of smokeless tobacco started using it between ages 5 and 8, greatly increasing their risk of developing cancer. Another 25 percent of users surveyed in the study began using chewing tobacco or snuff between ages 9 and 12, according to the study published in the January issue of *Pediatrics*.

NEW YORK**3 masked men snatch \$10 million in robbery**

Three men armed with guns and wearing ski masks held up an armored car in Rochester yesterday, getting away with \$10 million.

An employee with the Brinks company car also was reportedly missing after the holdup.

The robbery came just a week after \$8.27 million was taken in a heist from an armored truck company in New York City.

WASHINGTON, D.C.**New deficits are larger than Bush anticipated**

President Bush's final budget will predict federal deficits even higher than he anticipated just last summer, a top Republican congressional aide said yesterday.

The higher numbers will make it all the more difficult for President-elect Bill Clinton to honor his campaign pledge of halving the federal deficit in four years.

Bush's \$1.5 trillion spending plan for fiscal 1994, which begins Oct. 1, will show shortfalls exceed-

ing \$300 billion in both 1994 and 1995, said the aide. Just last July, the administration projected gaps of \$274 billion in 1994 and \$218 billion in 1995. The 1992 deficit was a record \$280 billion.

ELSEWHERE

Washington, D.C.: A federal jury yesterday found a one-time top aide to former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel Pierce and two other men guilty of offering gratuities to HUD officials.

But the jurors acquitted Lance Wilson, who was Pierce's executive assistant in the early 1980s; Texas developer Leonard E. Briscoe, and Maurice David Steier, an Omaha, Neb., lawyer, of more serious bribery, mail fraud and conspiracy charges.

Washington, D.C.: Ignoring President Bush's threat of firing, the Postal Service's governing board reasserted its autonomy yesterday and suggested a court settle its dispute with the White House. Bush's spokesman said "it's time" the board's independence was challenged.

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